



Charter School Review Committee

December 30, 2008

Howard Fuller
Chair

vacant
Vice Chair

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City Comptroller, *Ex Officio*

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M. Camille Mortimore, Ph.D.
Academy of Learning and Leadership
1530 W. Center St.
Milwaukee, WI 53206

RE: ACADEMY OF LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP PROBATION

Dear Dr. Mortimore:

The Charter School Review Committee (CSRC) met on December 1, 2008 to consider placing the Academy of Learning and Leadership (ALL) on probation for its lack of progress in meeting the City's expectations for the academic performance of your students. Specifically, the CSRC identified the following concerns:

- For three years in a row, second and third grade students on average have not met the expectation of one year progress in reading as measured by the Stanford Diagnostic Reading Test (SDRT).
- The percentage of 4th through 8th grade students who were proficient on the WKCE reading subtest the prior year has declined consistently over the past three years.
- The percentage of 4th through 8th grade students who were proficient on the WKCE math subtest the prior year has declined from 2006-07 to 2007-08. The cohort was too small to report in 2005-06.
- For two years in a row, second and third grade students who were below grade level in reading the prior year, have not meet the expectation of more than one year progress as measured by the SDRT. The cohort was too small to report in 2005-06.
- The percentage of 4th through 8th grade students who were below proficient on the WKCE reading subtest the prior year and who advanced one level of proficiency or to the next quartile within the proficiency level range has consistently declined over the last three years.

- The percentage of 4th through 8th grade students who were below proficient on the WKCE math subtest the prior year and who advanced one level of proficiency or to the next quartile within the proficiency level range has been consistently low, with the highest percentage of students meeting this expectation being 32.4% in 2006-07.

In addition, ALL's Annual Yearly Progress Review Summary, issued by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for the 2007-2008 school year, indicated that the school did not meet the AYP in reading and math. Because your school has not met AYP in those areas for two consecutive years, the school's improvement status is SIFI (School Identified for Improvement) Level I.

The CSRC can take into account several factors in determining probation. These factors, both academic and others, are described in Appendix A of the City's charter school application, entitled *Academic Performance and Educational Program Criteria*. The CSRC determined that all of the concerns identified above are factors specifically noted in Appendix A and are grounds for placing ALL on probation.

The CSRC has therefore voted to place ALL on probation. The CSRC requires that ALL meet the following year to year academic achievement expectations by the time of the report issued for the 2009-2010 school year:

- a. Current 2nd and 3rd grade students with comparison SDRT scores from the previous spring:

It is expected that on average all students will advance at least one year using grade level equivalencies from spring test to spring test. All students below grade level on the previous year's SDRT will on average advance more than one year using grade level equivalencies from spring test to spring test.

The results for 3rd grade students with comparable 1st grade SDRT test results will be reported as supplementary information.

- b. Current 4th through 8th graders, meeting the FAY definition, who were at the proficient or advanced levels on their previous year's WKCE - CRT reading and/or math subtests:

It is expected that 75.0% or more of these students will maintain their status of proficient or above.

- c. Current 4th through 8th graders, meeting the FAY definition, who were at the minimal or basic levels or proficiency on their previous year's WKCE - CRT reading and/or math subtests:

It is expected that each year, the school will increase the percentage of students who show advancement in scale scores to the next highest

quartile within the range of their previous year's proficiency level or advance to the next proficiency level.¹

In addition, the Committee expects ALL to meet AYP expectations in reading and math as indicated by its AYP report for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Being placed on probation will result in an increased level of monitoring by the CSRC monitors. The cost of additional monitoring shall be borne by ALL. Failure to address the CSRC's concerns could lead to termination of ALL's contract and revocation of its charter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Fuller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Howard" and last name "Fuller" clearly distinguishable.

HOWARD FULLER, Ph.D.
Chair, Charter School Review Committee

SDB:ms
Doc. No. 140929

¹ CRC will divide the scale scores at each proficiency level into quartiles.
Room 606 – City Hall, 200 East Wells Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202